

SIX DOLLARS
PER QUARTER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1890.

Entinuations.

Hongkong, 11th September, 1890. [8]

A. SHELTON HOOPER
Secretary.
Victoria Buildings,
Hongkong, 1st May, 1889.

Secretary.
Hongkong, and December, 1890. [1

Hongkong, 12th December, 1960.

Sole Agent for China and Japan
Hongkong, 28th August, 1892. [16]

Single Tickets are sold in the Cars; Five-Cent Coupons and Reduced Tickets at the Office.
MACWEN, FRICKEL & Co.,
 General Managers.
 Hongkong, 31st October, 1890.

Single Tickets are sold in the Cars; Five-Cent Coupons and Reduced Tickets at the Office.
MACWEN, FRICKEL & Co.,
 General Managers.
 Hongkong, 31st October, 1890.

Intimations.

DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA,
LIMITED,
DISPENSING CHEMISTS.

PHOTOGRAPHIC GOODS.

LENSES.

RAPID RECTILINEAR LENSES by
Taylor Taylor and Hobson with its
Diaphragms.
These are *bona fide* English made lenses and
will give results quite equal to Ross or Dallme-
yers lenses at a considerably reduced cost.

1 pl. 1 pl. 1 pl.
\$20 \$25 \$30
MIDDLEMIR'S CAMERAS.
The perfection of a Tourist Camera and Portable
Camera of good solid construction manufactured
expressly to our order, each with 3 double dark
slides, tripod stand and case.
1 pl. 1 pl. 1 pl.

Kodak Camera, No. 1, a most acceptable
Christmas present to anyone.

PHOTO SUNDRIES.

Spare carries for Dark Slides.
Dishes: Glass, Earthenware, Vaseline,
Measures, Mounts, Albumenized Paper.
Etc., Etc., Etc.

(Telephone No. 60.)

No. 22 & 24, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.
Hongkong, 8th December, 1890. [1635]



BY APPOINTMENT.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.
(ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.)
HONGKONG.

WE invite attention to the following old
lauded Brands, all of which are of ex-
cellent quality and good value for the money.
The same being specially selected by our
London House, and brought direct from the
most noted Shippers, are imported in wood and bottled
by ourselves, thus enabling us to supply the
best goods at moderate prices.

IN ordering it is only necessary to state
the name and quantity of Wine or Spirit wanted,
and initial letter for quality desired.
Orders through Local Post or by Telegram
receive prompt attention.

PORTS. (For Invalids and general use.)

	Per Case	Per Bot.
A. Alto Douro, good quality, Green Capsule.....	\$10	\$1.00
B. Vintage, Superior quality, Red Capsule.....	12	1.10
C. Fine Old Vintage, superior quality, Black Seal Capsule 14	1.25	
D. Very Fine Old Vintage, extra superior, Violet Capsule (Old Bottled).....	18	1.50

	Per Case	Per Bot.
SHERRIES.		
A. Delicate Pale Dry, dinner wine, Green Capsule.....	6	0.60
B. Superior Pale Dry, dinner wine, Green Seal Capsule.....	7.50	0.75
C. Manzanilla, Pale Natural Sherry, White Capsule.....	10	1.00
CC Superior Old Dry, Pale Natural Sherry, Red Seal Capsule.....	10	1.00
D. Very Superior Old Pale Dry, choice old wine, White Seal Capsule.....	10	1.00
E. Extra Superior Old Pale Dry, very finest quality, Black Seal Capsule (Old Bottled).....	14	1.50

	Per Case	Per Bot.
CLARETS.		
A. Superior Breakfast Claret, Red Capsule.....	\$4	\$4.50
B. St. Etienne, Red Capsule.....	4.50	5.00
C. St. Julien.....	7	7.50
D. La Rose.....	11	12.00

	Per Case	Per Bot.
BRANDY.		
A. Hennessy's Old Pale, Red Capsule.....	\$12	\$1.10
B. Superior Very Old Cognac, Red Capsule.....	14	1.25
C. Very Old Liqueur Cognac, Red Capsule.....	18	1.50
D. Hennessy's Finest Very Old Liqueur Cognac, 1872 Vin- tage, Red Capsule.....	24	2.00

	Per Case	Per Bot.
SCOTCH WHISKY.		
A. Thorne's Blend, White Cap- sule.....	8	0.75
B. Watson's Glenlivet Mellow Blend, Blue Capsule with Name and Trade Mark.....	8	0.75
C. Watson's Abouir-Glenlivet, Red Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark.....	8	0.75
D. Watson's H K D Blend of the Finest Scotch Malt Whiskies, Violet Capsule.....	10	1.00
E. Watson's Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky, Gold Capsule 12	1.10	

	Per Case	Per Bot.
IRISH WHISKY.		
A. John Jameson's Old Green Capsule.....	8	0.75
B. John Jameson's Fine Old, Green Capsule.....	10	1.00
C. John Jameson's Very Fine Old, Green Capsule.....	12	1.10
GUINNESS BOURBON WHISKY, fine old, Red Capsule, with Name	10	1.00

	Per Case	Per Bot.
GIN.		
A. Fine Old Tom, White Capsule.....	4.50	0.40
B. Fine Unsweetened, White Capsule.....	4.50	0.40
C. Fine A. V. H. Geneva.....	5.25	0.50

	Per Case	Per Bot.
RUM.		
Finest Old Jamaica, Violet Capsule.....	12	1.00
Good Leeward Island.....	\$1.50 per Gallon.	

	Per Case	Per Bot.
LIQUEURS.		
Benedictine.....	Maraschino	
Chartreuse.....	Herring's Cherry Cordial	
.....	Dr. Sieger's Agostura	
.....	Bliss, &c.	

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

SUBSCRIBERS TO "THE HONGKONG
TELEGRAPH" ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY
REMINDED THAT ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS
MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1890.

THERE will shortly be a favorable
opportunity for the Hon. Mr. WOODHOUSE
and his unofficial colleagues to again
grapple with the "Acting" appointment
difficulty. It is understood that Mr. H. E.
WOODHOUSE will shortly go home on four
months' leave—which period of time will
be doubled before that energetic official
resumes his duties. His departure will
create vacancies in the several appoint-
ments of Police Magistrate, Coroner,
Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, and
Colonial Treasurer, the last named office
carrying with it a seat in the Legislative
Council and within this colony the right to
be styled 'honorable.' Mr. WOODHOUSE
is, and notably with the outside public,
deservedly the most generally popular, as
he is one of the most independent and
most straightforward officers in the Hong-
kong Government service; and it is
probably on this account that his some-
what frequent lengthy absences, from the
sphere of his duties during the past dozen
years have been so particularly noticed
and commented on, especially in official
circles. It would be too much to say that
the old Student Interpreter of the "sixties"
has proved an altogether unequalled
success on the Magistracy bench, but he
has nevertheless done his work carefully,
conscientiously and, as a whole, in a
manner that has done credit to the
administration of justice and substantially
justified the somewhat unusual circumstances
under which he received the appointment.

It will be remembered by old residents
that about ten years ago Mr. WOODHOUSE,
who then held the substantive appointments
of Clerk of Councils and Chief Clerk in
the Colonial Secretary's office, was
unfortunate enough to fall under the
displeasure of Governor HENNESSY, and
as the matter in dispute could not be
satisfactorily adjusted here, he went to
London and laid his grievance before the
Secretary of State for the Colonies, a
position at that time held by the Earl of
KIMBERLEY. As a result of this course of
action Mr. WOODHOUSE returned to Hong-
kong as Police Magistrate to which post he
was appointed specially in order to be
independent of and beyond any direct
interference from the Governor. Without
legal training, and handicapped by a
good natured but distinctly pronounced
obstinacy, the new magistrate naturally
made mistakes at first; but with charac-
teristic perseverance he industriously
studied, not merely the ordinances of the
colony, but what is equally important, the
leading phases of Chinese character and
custom, and with fairly satisfactory results
both to himself and the Government.

Mr. WOODHOUSE's appointment to the
Superintendence of the Fire Brigade was
undoubtedly a bare-faced job, as at
that time he knew absolutely nothing of
the duties and there were other and more
competent officers who had much better
claims. It is but just to admit, however,
that the new Superintendent devoted
much time and energy to his Fire
Brigade duties, and entered so thoroughly
into the practical working details of
this important department that he has
not only brought it to a pitch of
proficiency that it had never previously
attained, but has by hard work made
himself a most efficient chief and one of
the most courageous and best all-round
firemen in the Brigade. As Coroner and
Chairman of the Bench of Justices, Mr.
WOODHOUSE has faithfully performed his
duties according to his lights, and it may
be doubted whether any other Govern-
ment official could have done much better.

Why this gentleman was selected for the
acting appointment of Colonial Treasurer
is not clearly apparent, unless we are to
conclude that it was intended as a special
compliment and an act of courtesy to the
only remaining Student Interpreter who
had not been honored with a seat in the
Legislative Council, and that is probably
the true explanation.

We have gone into these details to show
how Government appointments can be
manipulated when necessary, and for the
information of the unofficial members of
Council. The Police Magistrates were
included in Mr. WOODHOUSE's list of
officials, proposed to be in future debarred
from any position outside their own
departments, and these interesting par-
ticulars respecting Mr. WOODHOUSE's official
responsibilities, besides very strongly
suggesting grounds for careful cogitation,
will be valuable when the acting appoint-
ment question again comes up for
discussion. It was reported a few days
ago that a certain member of the bar
would act as *locum tenens* at the Magistracy
during Mr. WOODHOUSE's absence, but as
there is no salary attached to the position
for the first four months—Mr. WOODHOUSE

goes home on full pay—the proposed
arrangement has fallen through, and
there is still a vacancy for an amateur
magistrate who will be satisfied with
the hard work and the honor without
the emoluments of the position. This
sort of arrangement we would submit, is
scarcely the way in which such an impor-
tant appointment as a police magistrate
should be dealt with. Doubtless Mr. A.
G. WISS will take over the duties of
Coroner and Chairman of the Great
Unpaid, but fresh appointments will have
to be made for the Fire Brigade and
Colonial Treasury. As there will be no
salary attached to the Fire Brigade billet,
it may be once concluded that the Deputy
Superintendent, Mr. GEORGE HORSFORD,
will be appointed Acting Chief without op-
position. The Colonial Treasuryship is a
horse of quite another colour; Mr. WOOD-
HOUSE only holds the acting appointment,
and his successor will at once reap the
benefit of the salary and also the other
exceptional privileges, without adding
anything to his present duties, the entire
work of the Treasurer having for years
been most efficiently performed by the
chief clerk, Mr. CARVALHO. As Mr. W.
M. DEANE will have no seat in the Legis-
lative Council when he returns to his duties
as Captain Superintendent of Police, he
will probably succeed Mr. WOODHOUSE
as Treasurer—until the latter returns from
London with the permanent appointment in
his pocket. We do not aspire to the gift
of prophecy, but this forecast of coming
events that most decidedly 'cast their
shadows before,' will nevertheless prove
fairly accurate. It will be a good thing
for the colony when the Treasury becomes
a section of the Colonial Secretary's
department; and our suggestion of years
ago that the Deputy Superintendent of
Police should be permanent Chief of the
Fire Brigade is still worthy of serious
consideration.

TELEGRAMS.

AMERICAN FINANCE.

LONDON, December 5th.
America's financial condition has consid-
erably improved and it is believed the Treasury's
view of relieving the stringency favours purchasing
the whole stock of 13,000,000 ounces of silver
and a further amount equalling the annual with-
drawal of notes, thereby increasing the currency
30,000,000.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THUS an exchange "Madame Patey will perform
at Hongkong and in Japan on her way back."
Who is Madame and what is the nature of her
mission we wonder.

WE are informed by the agents (Messrs. Russell
& Co.) that the E. and A. S. S. Co.'s steamer
Aquila left Port Darwin for this port to-day, and
may be expected to arrive on the 27th inst.

AN adjourned Convocation of St. Andrew's
Chapter, No. 218, S.C., will be held in
Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street, this evening,
at 8 for 8.30 o'clock precisely. Visiting com-
panions are cordially invited.

"DUKE Clara" is the irreverent term by which
Albert Victor is now known. It describes the
poor little Imperial he-female with the sheep-
hardie cuff round his neck about as well as the
English language is capable of doing.

THE aristocratic skipper of a junk who tried to
slide out of the harbour of Shau-ki-wan yester-
day without a clearance permit, had to face the
music at the Harbour Office this morning where
the Acting Harbour Master caused him to con-
tribute \$7 to Her Gracious's Revenue.

A BEY flew out in the sunny air
By a boy so blithe and young,
Who laughed and screamed without a care,
And would not hold his tongue.

The scene it changed; with sob and shriek
The vault of heaven rang;
And homeward flew the boy so meek:
The small boy held his stung.

MISS MYRA KEMBLE the well-known Australian
actress, relates how she undertook to bring a
piece of sacred turf and a bottle of holy water
out to a pious friend in Australia. But alas! the
blessed moisture got loose and spilt one or two
dresses. "Nevertheless," says Myra, with a
mischievous twinkle in her eyes, "it was a full
bottle when I presented it."

WE are informed on what may be considered as
reliable authority that at the meeting of the
shareholders in the East Borneo, Sengai Koyah,
and Lamang Planting Companies, held to-day
at the offices of Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co.
the sale of the three estates to a London Syndi-
cate for £40,000 cash was unanimously approved.
Formal meetings will be called forthwith
for the purpose of ratifying this sale.

As will be seen from an advertisement in another
column the Gymnasium Committee of the V. R. C.
intend having what may be termed a "boding
entertainment" on the evenings of the 22nd and
23rd insts. That the arrangements are in the
hands of Mr. C. H. Thompson—who is a bit of a
scientist himself—is a guarantee that everything
will be conducted in a satisfactory manner, and
as for fun, there should be lots of it, for so less
than ten aspirants for prizes have been
metaphorically "sprung" from the
gymnasium. There will also be an exhibition of
gymnastics and fencing.

A COLONY of followers of Count Leo Tolstol has
(according to the Berlin correspondent of *The
Daily Chronicle*) been formed at Vishnevolski,
in the Government of Tver. The colony is
composed of ladies and gentlemen of the upper
classes who live as peasants, and put Tolstol's
theories into practice.

TENOR Joseph Wood died recently at Harrogate.
Joseph in his day was a big man, and Lady
Lennox played the Mrs. Polipbar with him to
such an extent that her hubby got a divorce.
Then Joseph married her, and the conundrum
went round: "Why is Lady Lennox like the
children of Israel?" "Because she turned from
the Lord (Lennox) and made an idol of Wood."
Joseph, who died at the age of 60, married the
great soprano, Miss Panton, whether before or
after the Lennox escapade we know not.

THE news of the stranding of the P. & O. Co.'s
steamship *Hongkong* which we published on the
10th inst. was quite correct. The Singapore
Free Press just to hand gives further particulars
of the occurrence. The vessel is believed to
have struck the Arden rock, close to the easterly
point of the island of Perim, and is reported to
be badly ashore. She was in command of
Capt. Wilkins and carried a general cargo but
no passengers. The *Hongkong* was built in
May, 1886, by Messrs. Caird & Co., of Greenock,
her gross tonnage being 3,174 or 2,046 net. She
was classed 100 AT at Lloyd's and was built
under special survey.

CANON WILBERFORCE's recent denunciation of
the opium trade has led to the formation of a
committee representing the majority of the
English churches, which is making arrange-
ments for holding a conference on the subject
next spring. The conference will specially con-
sider the question so far as it affects India, and
will lay its conclusions and its requests before
the Government. With regard to the produc-
tion of opium in China, though the conference
will thoroughly ventilate the subject, it is not
expected that any practical results will be
reached. The conference will probably be held
in London next March.

THE Secretary of the Bimoral Gold Mining
Company Limited informs us in reply to an
enquiry on the 11th inst., that the company's
Manager at the mine has telegraphed "Machinery
now working, results Monday, engineer failed,
future prospects good," and that the following
telegram was received from the company's
agent in Sydney this morning: "Working five
days, crushed 80 tons of ore yielding 37 ounces
of gold and three tons of pyrites, the principle
part of the gold is in the pyrites." From the
contents of the first telegram it is presumed
that the machinery has broken down, and an
explanation is expected by one of the three
incoming Australian mails, all due within the
next ten days.

IN our last night's issue we published an
advertisement notifying those whom it con-
cerned, that there would be a meeting of share-
holders in the Lamag, Sengai Koyah and East
Borneo Companies at the offices of Messrs.
Gibb, Livingston & Co. to-day, and as it is the
usual custom our representative duly attended
the meeting for the purpose of taking a record
of the proceedings. The meeting: of all public
companies are invariably reported, unless special
notice is given that the business to be transacted
is of a private nature. We mention this fact
for the benefit of Messrs. Layton, Wicking &
Co.; for our time is a little too valuable just now
for us to attend meetings for the purpose of
being told—and that with scant courtesy too—
that we can quietly "get."

TEN "Japs" who eked out a precarious existence
as curio-dealers in Sydney have just fallen into
fortune's way, and in a manner too, that would
cause holy mummies to lift their hands aloft
and sigh regretfully that the acts of Providence
are so hard to fathom. The representatives of
the "Land of the Rising Sun" took a ticket in
one of the gigantic Cup sweeps that are now
recognized institutions in Australia, and drew
Caroline, the winning horse, whose net value to
them was £25,000. The lucky "Japs" held
high revel for some days, kept open house, and
donated three or four hundred pounds to hospitals
and other charitable institutions, and needless to
say disposed of the stock-in-trade, and are now
on their way home to enjoy the fortune they won
through the devil's agency.

FOR some reason the authorities appear to have
utterly scouted the idea of getting evidence in
connection with the *Namoa* tragedy from any
of the numerous passengers who were on board
the ship, and whose worldly possessions were so
ruthlessly annexed by the pirates. To-day one
of the passengers, who had been robbed of
upwards of \$5,000, turned up at the Police
Court for the purpose of giving evidence at the
official inquiry that is now dragging its weary
course along, but at the conclusion of the pro-
ceedings, at 11 o'clock, the inquiry was adjourned
until next Tuesday, the 23rd inst., and the
witness was allowed an opportunity of placing his
testimony on record. This man is said to be
penurious and has neither means of support nor
the wherewithal to get back to his home near
Swatow—a pretty hard case and one worthy of
the consideration of the Douglas Company if not
of our "guardians of the peace."

THE "NAMOA" PIRACY.

THE MAGISTRAL INQUIRY.

At the Magistracy to-day Mr. H. E. Wode-
house continued the inquiry into the circum-
stances connected with the murder of Capt.
G. Pocock, Mr. G. Petersen and others by a
gang of pirates who seized the British steamship
Namoa on the high seas on the 10th inst., and
while on a voyage between Hongkong and
Swatow.

Mr. Wotton appeared to watch the case on
behalf of the Douglas Steamship Company,
Limited.

In opening the inquiry to-day Mr. Wodehouse
said that he had taken the depositions
of Mr. Ramsay, second engineer, Mr. Eddy,
third officer, and Mr. Agee, a quartermaster,
who were lying in Hospital suffering from wounds
inflicted on them by the pirates. He took their
depositions on Sunday last, the 14th inst., in
consequence of intelligence from the asperimen-

dent of the Civil Hospital to the effect that the
condition of the wounded was very serious.

Mr. Wodehouse then read over the depositions
of the wounded engineer (Mr. Ramsay) and of
the second officer, Mr. Eddy, which latter ran—as
follows:—

THE WOUNDED OFFICER'S DEPOSITION.

George William Eddy, second officer
of the *Namoa*, sworn, stated that he was
on duty on the 10th inst. Nothing
happened that day after leaving Hongkong
until about 1 p.m. At that hour he relieved
the second mate on the bridge in that the
latter might go to dinner. When he got
on the bridge he noticed a lot of Chi-
nese smoking cigars on the deck, and that
they had both red and white tape about them.
They were loafing about and looking at one
another. The men smoking were about 40 in
number. It appeared to him that some man
from the South, with plenty of money, had
been standing them a box of cigars. The red
tape was on the breast of their coats, and was
of the same kind as Swatow men wore when
going South. He attached no importance to it
and saw nothing suspicious. He saw no
fire-arms on the smokers. It was after he had
taken his bearings that he noticed them.
The *Namoa* was between Mendocina and Trin-
idad Islands at the time heading east by north 4
north. He went into the wheel-house to enter
the bearings of the ship in the log book when
all of a sudden he saw a man run on to the
bridge with a revolver. A shot was fired at
the wheel-house and he was evidently the shot hit
the wheel-house and passed through into the deck.
A Swatow man and the quartermaster, a Lasert,
were in the wheel-house with him at the time.
Thinking the man was crazy he at once
stepped out on the bridge. The man was
shouting wildly and was singing out "Kai-tai."
His intention was to disarm the man, but there
were seven or eight other men on the bridge, on
both sides, rushing towards him (witness). They
fired their revolvers in the air and took no aim
at him. As soon as he saw that he jumped off
the bridge with the intention of going to his
room to get his revolver. There being a lot
of men on the deck shooting with revolvers
of men on the back and ran aft to get into
the saloon. Upon arrival at the engine-room
door he saw there were a lot of men aft, also.
He therefore rushed down into the engine-room
and sang out to the third engineer, named Jones,
to get the hose out as quick as possible because
there were pirates on board. The firemen
who were down there would not assist to get the
hose out, for they were demoralised. While
thinking what he should do, the second
engineer came rushing down with his hand
covered with blood, saying he was shot.
At the same time some pirates appeared over
the engine-room and commenced firing on us.
We sheltered ourselves by means of the boilers.
He heard one pirate coming down the steps
and ran out and gave a lump of coal at
him, and hit him in the face with it. The
pirate fired at him, the ball lodging in his
right wrist. The bullet entered near the wrist,
and came out near the elbow. Ramsay,
the engineer, instantly fired at him which
seemed to have hit him in the leg as he gave a
yelp and rushed up calling out "plenty foreign
devil down below," in Chinese. He was then
heard was the voice of the chief engineer.
They all went up, were searched by the pirates and
shut up in the Captain's cabin. While
there he was forced to give up his watch and
chain and gold and silver ring, valued at \$50.
He believed he could identify the Pirate Chief,
and he identified the likeness of the pirate
Chief and one other. He did not think
that the crew were in any way privy
to the outrage. He was an Australian
by birth and a native of Sydney, N.S.W.

THE CHIEF ENGINEER'S EXPERIENCES.

W. F. Macdonald, chief engineer of the
steamer *Namoa*, said the *Namoa* left Hongkong
at 8 a.m. on the 10th inst. and all went
well until 1 p.m. At that hour he was in his
room, under the bridge, having dinner. His
attention was drawn to a noise on the
upper deck caused by his dog barking. He
went out and saw a Malay and a Chinaman
scuffling. The Malay was a quarter-master,
and he died on the 14th inst. in Hospital.
He thought the quartermaster was ill-treating
the Chinaman, so went aft to interfere.
They were scuffling about 40 feet aft of his room
and abreast of the funnel. He noticed the
Chinaman was armed with a revolver which he
held in his right hand. The Malay had hold of
him by the left arm. The Chinaman's right hand
was lowered against the Malay's person, and the
revolver went off and the Malay fell. He was
within two yards of them when the Malay fell.
He (witness) then passed between the Malay and
the Chinaman and fired a shot at him.
He at once made his way aft to the saloon,
being fired at by several men *en route*. He
met a man coming out of the saloon as he
was going in, they bumped against each other
in the doorway. He (the pirate) put the muzzle
of his revolver against his left breast and he
(witness) knocked the revolver up just in time,
and the smoke of it, when fired blackened
his face. He then ran on down stairs into the
saloon which he found empty, but full of smoke.
Witness called out "Is no one here?" and Capt.
Pocock answered him from his boys' room. He
could not tell at once where the Capt. was because
the smoke was very dense. He (the Capt.) sang
out "is it you Mac?" The witness was then
standing in the saloon with his hands on
the back of the Captain's chair. He
conversed with the Captain relative to the
situation. Then four or five armed pirates
made their appearance and fired some shots.
The pirates were dressed like ordinary Chinese
coolies. They were shoes, but not all of them.
Most of the pirates were without stock. They
were shouting out and firing shots from the
saloon. He (witness) saw a shot at him.
He (witness) as well as they could. He suggested
to the captain to ask the pirates, through the
steward, what they wanted, and he did so.
About five minutes later the Chinese cap-
tainer and the No. 3 fireman came down
with a message to the Captain which he
(witness) did not hear. They were alone, but
were directed by the pirates posted on the stairs.
After a short pause with the captain, the
latter sang out "what do you want of this Mac?"
Witness answered he did not know for he had
not heard the conversation. The carpenter
then came along and said "if the captain and chief
engineer will submit to be shut up they (the pirates)
will not harm anyone at all." Capt. Pocock then,
knowing witness had got the message, asked
if he would go to which he, the chief engineer,
replied "yes, I will." Immediately after arriv-
ing the captain went up the stairs and he
(witness) followed along the saloon—where
he was standing—towards the stairs. Just as
the captain got to the top of the stairs, he
saw the pirates. He (witness) saw a shot at him.
He actually sang out "Oh I oh." It was the voice
of a man in pain. He (witness)—who was
then at the foot of the stairs—sang, but "have
they shot you Pocock?" Got no answer, so
sang out again, and still got no answer.
After hearing the shot he went no further.
He could not see who fired the shot, but could
dearly the pirates' legs from where he was
standing. It appeared to him that the shot was

fired from inside the captain's room which was
at the top of the staircase. He remained where
he was for about a minute and then the second
mate (Richardson) came down and reported
that the captain was shot. After that he went
up stairs into the captain's room. He saw the
Captain lying on his bed, wounded. No one
else but the second mate was in the cabin with
him (witness). The only door in the captain's
room that was open was the one leading out on
the staircase. The Captain said "Mac, Mac, this
is dreadful!" The captain knew all that was
going on for about ten minutes, but could not speak.
The last act of the captain was to prevent him,
the chief engineer, from opening his shirt front.
The captain put his hand on witness's hand and
said "no." The second and third mates and the
saloon passengers came in, and last of all the
Chief Officer (Eldridge) came in. The officers
were brought in by pirates who demanded the
surrender of all valuables. He (witness)
did not give up anything. They demanded all
watches and chains, etc., but did not make a
search of their clothing. The boatswain was
their interpreter. The pirates who brought the
officers in said they were going to loot the ship.
In reply he (witness), through the boatswain,
said "hurry up and finish your looting, for God's
sake, so then we can get back to Hongkong and
get medical aid for the captain." The boatswain
said that they could have any medicine in the
ship, to do some good for the captain. He did
not know if the pirates ordered him to say that.
After receiving the valuables the pirates de-
manded them any further. The door of the
captain's cabin leading on to the staircase
was shut from the inside. The pirates pulled
on the said door so that there could be no passage
for any of them outward. Later they battered up
the door. He did not know when the captain died
but it was about a quarter of an hour after the
valuables were given up, that he died. The
captain did not surrender anything, and his shirt
studs were in his shirt at the time of his death.
Plundering was going on from two to five o'clock.
He saw them bringing boxes up out of the
twelve decks forward, and firing under the bridge,
which they smashed against the foot of the steps
leading up to the bridge, and taking therefrom
the valuables. The plundering went on for
three or four hours. The plunder seemed to
consist of money and clothing. He saw two
galvanised iron buckets and two rice baskets,
full of dollars, brought up from the after 'tween
decks compartment. They were also carrying
a great deal of valuable, silk clothing which
they piled up along the deck. At
5.30 p.m., after finishing the looting, they nailed
battens against the cabin doors. This was done
to prevent the exit of the prisoners. They were
very methodical in the preparations for de-
parture. There appeared to him to be as
many as 15 to 20 of them at one time in one
part of the ship—that was when they were
smashing open the luggage. The pirates
carried on the looting very quietly. There
was not much noise after the first attack. One
man was directing the whole affair. He
never put his hand to anything. He simply
walked about giving orders. He (witness) never
lost sight of him for a moment from the time
they were shut up in the captain's room. He
spied him from the starboard window of the
captain's room. From that window he
watched the movements of the pirates from
about half past two o'clock in the afternoon up
to dark. The general work of plunder was carried
on chiefly on the starboard side. The Chief was
roaming about all over the ship. He had no
special badge to distinguish him. His clothing
was slightly different from the others, that was
all. He was armed with two revolvers—one in
his hand, and one in his belt. All the pirates
had two revolvers, one of which was slung
around the neck with a white cord and the other
was stuck in the belt. The pirates were all
baldheaded. A few of them were armed with
knives. He could see what was being done
with the ship while it was all going on and
thought that the navigation of the ship was
taken over by the pirates two minutes to one
o'clock. The ship appeared to him to be kept
on her usual course up to half past two. At that
time the course was altered so as to bring
Petro Blanco about a point on the starboard bow.
That would cause the ship to run out to
sea in a S.E. direction. When they were about
two miles off Petro the course was changed
so as to bring in on

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INEXPENSIVE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

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Hongkong, 15th December, 1890.

stopped and the other junks then came alongside. Then more attention seemed to be paid to the first junk and it was supposed she had most of the valuables on board. About half-past seven the anchor was let go and it was about an hour after that that the junks all left with the pirates on board them. Witness could not say that the pirates left in the junks, as he did not see them, but he could see a number of men going down the boat accommodation ladder over the side of the vessel. The spoil that witness saw was piled up in blankets. The junks appeared to go away on the wind, but witness could not say which way they went. If they went with the wind it would take them into the mainland of China. The spoil was transferred to the junks with very little noise, except the barking of a dog on one of the junks. The pirates appeared well acquainted with one another, and there was no quarrelling amongst them. As soon as the pirates had gone they all got out the Captain's cabin, and witness went to the engine-room where he found all the Chinese crew belonging to the engine room. The first were all down, which must have been done some time before. (Witness) got down as there were no fire in the engine. Everything else was in the order. The firemen were very much frightened when witness went down, and until they did not know what he was doing. The first were all down, which must have been done some time before. (Witness) got down as there were no fire in the engine. Everything else was in the order. The firemen were very much frightened when witness went down, and until they did not know what he was doing.

The Acting Attorney-General—Is the Chancellor of the Exchequer estimates the amount paid for foreign transit at 10. He says—“We have to pay an amount equal to 1d. for the foreign transit and the cost of the latter in this country; and in the colonies or in India is taken to be even more than 1d. Thus, if you add 1d. to the 10d. the cost of the postage will be more than 11d. or at least fully 12d. and we cannot recoup ourselves.” He clearly states that the cost of foreign transit is only 1d.

Mr. T. H. Whitehead—I think it will be unfair and unjust to the ratepayers here that they should be out of pocket by the transaction.

The Chairman—They will be out in one pocket, but they will be in the other.

The Surveyor-General—It really amounts to taking it out of one pocket and putting it into the other.

Mr. P. Ryrie—How is that?

The Chairman—You get your stamps cheaper.

Mr. Ho Kai—We have not only to pay for ourselves but for the Treaty P. is.

Mr. P. Ryrie—What becomes of the £6000 paid to the Postal Union? How is that absorbed?

The Chairman—I take it that goes to make up the loss that has been spoken about.

The Surveyor-General—There seems to be rather a discrepancy between the report just read, which states the amount paid to be 1d. and that given by the Assistant Postmaster. If you take the amounts given by him and add them together they come to a very much larger sum.

The Chairman—I do not think I can do more than represent to the Secretary of State what has been said. I am afraid that the means here of increasing the Postal Union is not the means here of increasing the Postal Union.

Mr. T. H. Whitehead—Could the Secretary of State give us the information by telegram, as to what reduction will be made up by the other countries, if we make a reduction, say to six cents?

Mr. P. Ryrie—If we are going to reduce the rates at all we should reduce them to the French and German scale.

The Chairman—I think what you ask for would make rather a long telegram to send home.

Mr. T. H. Whitehead—If we are going to make a reduction of a large amount the cost of the telegram would be fully justified. As we are at present we cannot fix on a rate that will cover expenses because we do not know what they will be.

The Chairman—As we have no information to the contrary we must assume the expenses will be what they were before. It would be very desirable for these countries to reduce their rates, but there does not seem any possibility of it.

The Acting Attorney-General—The most important reduction would be that of the United Kingdom. We pay them 10d.

The Surveyor-General—That, I think, is in consequence of the subsidies they pay to the mail steamers.

The Chairman—What is the information the hon. member requires?

Mr. T. H. Whitehead—If we make a reduction here, what reduction will Egypt, Italy, France, and the United Kingdom make? What will they pay? I think it will be desirable to fix a rate that will cover expenses. At present we pay 10d. for each 100 lbs. letter.

The Chairman—We need not do anything that will be final. If we reduce the rates now, there will be nothing to prevent us reducing them further if we find we are able to do so. We must consider that we are only one among a number of other countries. We might fix a certain rate, say for the next six months, and then reduce further if we get the information that there is to be a reduction made by France, Italy and the United Kingdom. My feeling is that if we were acting on our own account we might telegraph and raise these points, but seeing that there are a number of countries interested in the matter, it would be better to wait until we have more information.

Mr. T. H. Whitehead—For the last three years could you estimate roughly what has been the gross revenue and the gross expenditure in the Postal department? Has there been a profit or loss, or were they all set at liberty?

The strongest evidence which the police have against these two men is the fact that they both left their luggage the day previous to the piratical attack on the *Namoa* and returned there two days after it. Furthermore they refuse to give any reason for their departure or say where they were during the 10th, 11th, and 12th instants.

ARREST OF TWO PIRATES.

About noon to-day, upon evidence received from an informer, Detective Inspectors Stanton and Quinny arrested two men at Yau-mai. The police have a strong suspicion of their being connected with the recent piracy on board the steamship *Namoa*. They are two brothers, one of whom was recognized by Captain Maclellan as having been one of the hand of pirates on board the steamship *Seachow* last year, of which vessel he was then commander, but our local magistrate could not find sufficient evidence at that time to justify a conviction.

The *Seachow* piracy case was a somewhat serious one in which sixteen coolies were tried before a local magistrate, and although evidence of a deliberately planned attack on the *Seachow* was proved by the presence of revolvers, stink-pots and cut-throat knives, the case was dismissed on account of the absence of several of the Chinese passengers, still, as the prisoners denied any connection with the dangerous goods and the evidence for the prosecution was more or less weak, they were all set at liberty.

The strongest evidence which the police have against these two men is the fact that they both left their luggage the day previous to the piratical attack on the *Namoa* and returned there two days after it. Furthermore they refuse to give any reason for their departure or say where they were during the 10th, 11th, and 12th instants.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE RATES.

The following full report of the discussion which took place upon the above subject at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Monday the 15th inst. has been unavoidably held over until to-day.

The Chairman—Gentlemen, I have just received a note from His Excellency reminding me that we have not yet settled the question of postal reduction, and I would ask the Council to come to some recommendation with regard to this matter, so that we may telegraph to the Secretary of State according to his desire.

Mr. T. H. Whitehead—I would ask if this reduction in the rate of postage be made here will the amount paid to other countries by Hongkong be less than we are at present paying?

The Chairman—That is a matter I am entirely unable to answer, because it is a matter which will have to be settled in England. It affects India, Australia, and all the other colonies and I presume they are not losing sight of that question.

Mr. T. H. Whitehead—If we reduce our rate to 2½d. and we have to pay 30d. to these countries for each ½d. letter, the colony will be very much the loser not only as regards the letters sent from here but from all the treaty ports in China.

The Chairman—Yes, the treaty ports use our postage stamps.

The Acting Attorney-General—By the French mail Hongkong pays France and Egypt 1.80d. That goes to the Canal Company I presume as we do not send letters through Egypt now.

The Chairman then read the letter from the Chamber of Commerce on the subject, which has already been published.

The Chairman—Shall we divide the question into two parts—first, shall we have a reduction or not, and secondly, if we agree to that, what shall the reduction be?

Mr. T. H. Whitehead—Until we have some information as regards how much we are going to pay France, Egypt and other countries, I do not see how we can come to any decision.

The Chairman—We must remember that there are only a very small number of letters. There are not only ourselves but the whole of India, the Straits, and the Australian colonies to be considered. We can represent this matter to the attention of the Postal authorities at home, but to suppose that we ourselves can make any alteration is, I am afraid, to suppose what is not likely to be effected.

of five cents six months hence. I say seven cents just now to prevent any loss.

Mr. J. J. Kewick proposed that the rate of postage be reduced to seven cents for a half-ounce letter.

Mr. C. P. Chater seconded.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. T. H. Whitehead—Will there be any condition attached to this reduction?

The Chairman—I do not think we are in a position to make conditions. I will be strongly represented that these other countries should reduce their rates.

Mr. T. H. Whitehead—The unofficial members have an agenda they wish to add to this matter.

The Chairman—If you will send it me under cover I will see that it is forwarded to the Secretary of State.

The Committee then adjourned.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by correspondents in this column.)

THE LATE PIRACY CASE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

SIR,—Referring to the piratical attack lately perpetrated on board the steamship *Namoa*, it is indeed passing strange, that the *Cantonese* section of the crew, under the circumstances, who were more or less unmolested and who enjoyed such opportunities for observing the character of the piratical vessels, should have possessed such singular opaqueness of vision, as not to be able to swear as to the type, rig, description, number, or indeed anything about the vessels whatever. The commander and the steward staff on board these vessels are a liberally and particularly well treated class, yet when they witness even the most kindly and indulgent of masters brutally murdered, they persist in maintaining a reserve, which is certainly assisting to frustrate the ends of justice. Moreover, it is a well known fact that the most demagogical planned attacks by some means or other get rumoured about amongst the natives, indeed it not infrequently becomes a matter almost of gossip, but in this case no word of warning or caution was given. This taken with the fact that the Chinese on board with one or two exceptions, were in no way molested and some were even rewarded by the watches when departing were, I consider, significant enough features in the case to remark upon. We next come to the extraordinary supineness shown by the civil and naval authorities of the colony, especially by the former, in not promptly offering a suitable reward which was one of the most effective means at their disposal for speedily bringing the miscreants to justice. When we consider the hundreds of thousands of dollars squandered on the public works of this colony, and the huge amounts of money that have been forthcoming from the Treasury at such a juncture, affecting as it does the whole commercial interests of the port!

The Chinese people are second to none in their appreciation of the almighty dollar, a liberal reward promptly offered was the only way to break down this "race uniform" as to speak, of the wily Celestial. Certainly the occasion called for a better display of energy and consideration for what is the consequence here, of this kind of despatch being left at large, ready to do mischief to the colony, and to the safety of the property of the colony.

Unfortunately the Executive were not alone in this complete lack of energy and as we must observe, conception of duty. The naval authorities went arm-in-arm with them. The unfortunate *Namoa* arrived here at 7.30 a.m. on the morning after the catastrophe and it was only at 6 a.m. the following morning when a British war vessel could be got away. Possibly the *Limbo* had some defect to make good and it was impossible for her to get away before, if so it does not say much for the naval administration of the port, that the entire squadron, should have been so long in getting to the scene. We expect that one, if only one, might be available on an emergency, moment's notice. Where were the most talked of torpedo vessels? The weather was such that a steam launch would have found no difficulty in straining within a few hours to the position where the attack had been made and were the pirates there, last seen heading inshore. The *again* where was the *Pamela*, let alone the fine fleet of steam vessels in harbour available and capable of being rapidly made sufficiently efficient for the search? We leave Admiral (we dub him so for this occasion) Sam Brown to consider why this fine colonial steamer was permitted to be idle at her anchors on such a pregnant occasion. Had the *Fame* been under the control of an able Harbour Master like Captain Ramsey, which she should be, no such gross exhibition of indifference would have to be deplored. One can fairly assure the authorities that the blood-thirsty pirates in the early days of this colony had no such good times as they have at present, even though the "venerable hills" opposite did blare forth the offshoots and transmit the signal from hill to hill along the coast whenever a gunboat lighted her fires. We also recollect how different was the action of the naval authorities of the port here on the occasion of the Shamen riots. The Captain of the river steamer arrived in port at 6.30 a.m., the day after the riot and immediately communicated with the senior Naval officer, both the *Swift* and *Exeter* were under way by 8.30 a.m., although a typhoon was most raging at the time. It might have been hoped, on the eve of the colony's Jubilee, that we should have made a better show with the right arm of the state than we have done, and it is but poor consolation to feel we are apparently no worse off than they are elsewhere that is if some of the naval authorities are to be believed.

Yours faithfully,

AN INDIGNANT BRITON.

Hongkong, December 17th, 1890.

Intimations.

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Hongkong, 15th December, 1890.

LARINE S'AMUSE.

A ROYAL FAMILY PARTY.

"Her Majesty added that she felt deep interest in the welfare of all the Australian colonies, and had been at special pains to make herself well acquainted with their conditions and prospects."

Cablegram in daily paper.

SCENE: A ROOM IN WINDSOR CASTLE.

Dramatis Personae:

The Queen and the whole ship's company of the Royal Family, Lords and Ladies in Waiting, &c.

Her Majesty (yawning).—"And now, as it is a wet day and we can't take the horses out, suppose we talk about some subject that will improve our minds. I command you, Albert Edward (looking at the P. of W.) to suggest something."

The P. of W. (after a mighty mental effort in the course of which the blood rushes into his head—and a loud in-Waiting approaches and puts a black ink on the back of his neck).—"The next Duby."

Her Majesty.—"H'm. No. We are tired of hearing of it. It seems to me that nothing but racing talked about in this family."

The Duke of Cambridge.—"Der Army!"

The younger members of the Royal Family snigger, and the P. of W. winks slyly at Battenberg who sits at the far end of the room twisting his moustache.

Her Majesty (drily).—"After recent occurrences, I think you had better not talk about the Army, unless My grandson, the Emperor William, tells me that you couldn't pass an examination for a corporalship in his Army."

The Duke of Cambridge (flushing purple).—"Matam, it is a gump. Valdoes dat arrogant pay know about war? Ven I was in der Grimes!"

Her Majesty (severely).—"We have heard that story before, sir. I thought that hallucination had been dispelled."

The Duke of Fife to the P. of W. (in a whisper).—"What is the story, sir?"

The P. of W. (also in a whisper).—"Hasn't he told you yet? Perhaps you haven't been long enough in the family. Well, the old fellow has a craze like what Uncle George the Fourth had about Waterloo, and fancies he led the Charge of the Light Brigade at Ralpacava. It's very funny, but, of course, you won't mention it outside. I wouldn't like the comic papers to get hold of it. We are ridiculous enough as it is."

The Princess of Wales.—"The Church, mamma!"

Her Majesty (smiling ruefully).—"I think we had better not talk about that subject either. Although I am Head of the Church, the Lord's Day Observance Society object to my having thrown open the East Terrace on Sundays for the people to walk there and listen to the band playing. They sent me a letter about it the other day. Sir Henry Benson has it. Ring for Sir Henry, one of you."

Sir Henry enters presently with a pen behind each ear, recovers his bow, bows, bows, bows, and returns with the letter.

Her Majesty.—"I'll only read you one sentence. The remainder of the composition is too dreary. Listen! 'The amazing of attractive amusements on the Lord's Day cannot but hinder the efforts of Christian persons to instruct the young and to win to holiness multitudes who are ignorant of the Gospel and who stand in sore need of instruction in the truths of God's holy word.'"

Princess Louise of Lorne to the P. of W.—"They're very hard on the Royal Family, I think they aim mostly at you, though."

Her Majesty.—"Isn't there any other subject you can suggest?"

The P. of W. (Impulsively).—"The Stage."

Her Majesty.—"Albert Edward! Be good enough to remember where you are."

The P. of W.—"I ask pardon, mother. I forgot that you have a prejudice against the stage."

Her Majesty (in a hollow whisper, heard only by the P. of W.).—"If I have it is on your account, unhappy boy."

The Duchess of Albany (sitting listlessly).—"We might converse about the famine in Ireland! The poor people must suffer dreadfully."

Her Majesty (harshly).—"I have done my duty. I have sent a cheque for £2.25 out of my little savings to alleviate the distress. Let us consider that subject settled, if you please."

Princess Battenberg.—"It would, perhaps, be more interesting, mamma, if we spoke about that old Scotch person near Balmoral to whom you gave a Bible and a flannel petticoat."

Her Majesty (with effusion).—"Dear old creature! Yes, we will speak of her. I remember one morning."

The P. of W. to Princess Louise.—"This will never do. If the old Lady gets on to that subject she'll talk for a week. Suggest something else, Louise."

Princess Louise (aloud).—"Why doesn't Albert tell us something about the Navy? He's an Admiral of the Fleet, and ought to know something about his profession."

The P. of W. to the Duke of Fife.—"Alfred couldn't navigate a ferry boat without a sailing master. How I! How I!"

The Duke of Fife (very faintly).—"How I! How I!"

Princess Louise.—"He's a fiddle. Perhaps he knows more about the fiddle. Let him, then, hold forth on the fiddle."

Princess Battenberg.—"Ja wohl! Let him blay mit der viddle."

Princess Battenberg.—"Be quiet, please! Your place!"

The Duke of Edinburgh (sourly).—"We know Louise monopolises all the brains of the family; perhaps she will instruct us concerning Canada. They adore her in Canada."

Princess Louise.—"They didn't shoot at me, anyhow, as they did at you in Australia."

The P. of W.—"That was an error. They mistook him for a wild Duke—wild duck, you know. How I! How I!"

Her Majesty (severely).—"Albert Edward! This is not a ministerial entertainment! Think for a moment, and then continue." As Australia has been mentioned, and I have heard a good deal of it lately, we will talk about Australia. What do you know about it, Alfred? You have been there."

The Duke of Edinburgh (still sulky).—"Yess, I was there. The trip cost me several pounds to present's I gave away."

The P. of W.—"Yess. You were very free-headed. I believe your Cambridge told me, later I got not from him some time ago, that at a station he visited they showed him an aluminium watch with imitation works and your name and titles upon it, which you had given to the eldest son when you were there. They kept it under a glass-case with a shilling which you gave to the butler when you left."

The Duke of Edinburgh.—"You may sneer as you like, but the daughters of one wealthy Australian—he was a South Australian, if I remember rightly—thought so much of me that they asked me to give them my nail-parings to wear in lockets."

Her Majesty.—"Touching exhibition of loyalty! You gratified them, of course?"

The Duke of Edinburgh.—"I did, mother."

The Duchess of Edinburgh.—"Idiot!"

Princess Louise (sneering).—"Not necessarily, my dear. No doubt they wanted them to wear as amulets against impudence."

Her Majesty.—"Can you throw any light on this subject, Albert Edward?"

The P. of W.—"The only man, bearing Carlington I know in Australia is Teddy Davies, and he's in a lock."

Her Majesty.—"And who is the gentleman you honour by such familiar allusions? An eminent colonial statesman, I suppose?"

The P. of W. (bashfully).—"No, mother. Teddy's a ventriloquist, but we are great friends. I never do anything of importance without first consulting Teddy. It was he who advised me not to go out to Australia a year ago when it was suggested that I should go. He said there wasn't money enough in the tour just then. But I'm astonished that you don't seem to know him."

Her Majesty (slyly).—"There are times when I think it almost a pity that you should have been born a prince, Albert Edward. Your tastes are deplorably bad, and I am told you are never so happy as when you are behind the scenes at a theatre."

Duke of Connaught (aside).—"Ballet!"

The P. of W. (lifting his eyebrows).—"What is that bald man saying?"

Princess Louise (demurely).—"He says he would give all the military glory he is ever likely to gain for a reliable hair-restorer."

The P. of W.—"Wants one for nothing, as usual. It is a way members of this family have. But (addressing the company) from what I hear it is quite possible to live in the Australian colonies. Of course there is no society there, but that isn't the fault of the poor colonies. I am told that the manner in which they fall down and worship persons of rank—is very funny."

Her Majesty.—"Very proper, my dear. Of course their civilisation is inferior, and they know it."

The P. of W.—"Inferior mother! They have the best race-course in the world. Joe Thompson told me (pursing suddenly and blushing with confusion) I mean Bishop Moorhouse informed me."

Her Majesty (austerely).—"That will do, Albert Edward. Prevarication is unworthy even of you. I wish to hear nothing more about racing."

The P. of W. (sulkily).—"Well, mother, Carlington tells me that if it weren't for the racing he'd have yawned himself to death out there years ago. Albert and George were there. Perhaps they can tell you something about the place."

Princess Albert of Wales.—"Vulgar, vewy."

Princess George of Wales.—"They gave a ball in our honour when we were there."

Princess Alice of Wales.—"Yess, and a dreadful wedding march—Mayah of the wretched place, I think—shook hands with me and said he would never wash his hand again or do any work with it if he had to see it become slowly paralysed."

Her Majesty (thoughtfully).—"There was a Colonial Prince presented to me some time ago. He had a very red face, I recollect rightly."

Princess Louise.—"Yes, mamma, and red hands with hair on them, and no finger-nails."

Her Majesty.—"Are all Australians like that, George?"

Princess G. of W. (gravely).—"All distinguished Australians grandees. But the girl is silly. One of them wanted to run away with me. She said—"

The P. of W. (sternly).—"George, leave the room!"

Exit P. G. of W. with his tongue in his cheek.

The Duke of Edinburgh (after a pause).—"That history-fellow, Frode, has been to the colonies and written a book about them. He might know something."

Princess Louise.—"Poor little Frode! He wouldn't know anything outside of the Government House if he could help it."

Her Majesty.—"Isn't there such a person in the Commons whom they call the member for Australia?"

The P. of W.—"Yess—in (distinction). "He has been plucked out to me."

Her Majesty.—"What sort of person is the person?"

The P. of W. shudders and makes a very faint "Omnes. Eh?"

The P. of W.—"Yass! But some of the Agents here are very decent persons in their private life and exceedingly loyal, although terrible bores. If they owned the colonies, mother, instead of merely representing them, they would give them to you to-morrow for a stock-farm, or to present to Battenberg there, if you would ask them to dine here occasionally and allow them to sleep over the stables now and then."

Her Majesty.—"I have heard so—but, of course, there are some things that cannot be done. The servants would object if I allowed these persons to come about the place much. I believe they are very fond of titles. Perhaps I may establish a new Order for their benefit on these days."

Princess Louise.—"Let it be a gorgeous one, then, mamma; with a star as large as a soap-plate and a ribbon as broad as a sash and of a colour that will scream at people as they pass. They'll call it the Silken Band that binds the Colonies to the Empire."

Her Majesty (sitting herself comfortably on her throne).—"As none of you seem to know much about my Australian Colonies, I will tell you what I have found out about them myself from my advisers. My subjects there worship me and my family—it is well they don't know as much about some of you as I do—especially my subjects of Melbourne, in Queensland, who are more enthusiastic than those of Sydney, in South Australia, and sent a troop of soldiers under the command of a Mr. Malley, whom I made a Privy Councillor afterwards, to help my army in the South. They are all earnest Imperialists, poor things, and are terribly afraid of being separated from the Crown, and their great

ambition is to have a member of my family sent out to govern them. They are, of course, too rude and uncultured now for me to gratify their desire in that direction, but in the course of time, when they become more civilised, I might, if one of you happened to become broken down in health or mentally indisposed, like our poor dear ancestor, George the Third, send him out to them as a Governor-General, in case of Sir Henry Parker, or Sharker, who, I am informed, is a leading aboriginal in Adelaide."

The P. of W.—"Send Connaught, mother—he's fit for the position without any preparation."

The Duke of Connaught.—"I'm not painfully fat, at any rate, Wales."

The P. of W.—"Only in the head, dear brother—only in the head, and the heat of the climate might carry away some of that."

Her Majesty.—"What is that pipe you are trying to hide, Prince Battenberg?"

Prince Battenberg.—"The Sydney Bulletin, your Majesty. Louise lent it to me. There's a funny story in it about Beatrice."

Her Majesty (thoughtfully).—"Do you subscribe to this journal, Louise?"

Princess Louise.—"I am its Windsor correspondent, mother."

Tableau.

—Sydney Bulletin.

Today's Advertisements.

ST. ANDREW'S CHAPTER.

No. 218, S.C.

AN ADJOURNED CONVOCATION will be held in FREEMASONS' HALL, Zealand Street, THIS EVENING, the 17th inst., at 8 for 8.30 O'CLOCK precisely. Visiting Companions are cordially invited.

Hongkong, 17th December, 1890. [1658]

UNION LINE.

FOR NEW YORK, VIA SUEZ CANAL.

THE Steamship

"GUY MANNERING."

Captain Ford, will be despatched for the above port, on or about the 15th January, 1891. For Freight or Passage, apply to

RUSSELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 17th December 1890. [1722]

FOR NAGASAKI (DIRECT).

THE Steamship

"RIVERSDALE."

Captain Morrey, will be despatched, as above, on FRIDAY, the 19th December, at DAY-LIGHT.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

ADAMSON, BELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 17th December, 1890. [1724]

BOXING AT THE VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

It is intended to hold COMPETITIONS in Light & Heavy weight Boxing, Fencing, and Gymnastics, in the Gymnasium of the V.R.C., on MONDAY and TUESDAY EVENINGS, the 22nd and 23rd instants, commencing at 5 p.m.

Owing to the limited space in the Gymnasium for spectators, the Committee request that members will not invite too many friends to be present.

CHARLES H. THOMPSON, for the V.R.C. Gym. Sub. Com.

Hongkong, 17th Decemr. 1890. [1725]

VICTORIA REGATTA, 1890.

BY arrangement with the Victoria Recreation Club the Floating Hotel belonging to the HONGKONG MARINA HOTEL, LIMITED, will be used as Flotilla in the Regatta.

Admittance, One Dollar each weekday. Children half-price. Ladies free. Gentlemen holding tickets from the V.R. Club free.

Refreshments, including meals provided at the usual charges.

Tickets, may be obtained on board the launches, which will run at frequent intervals from Paddlers' Wharf—Return fare, Twenty-five cents.

No tickets taken.

By order of the Board of Directors,

J. A. BARRETTO, Secretary.

HONGKONG MARINA, LIMITED.

Hongkong, 17th December, 1890. [1713]

TO LET.

HOUSES at the Peak and at Bellios Terrace.

GODOWNS in Duddell Street.

ROOM and SHOP in Beaconsfield Arcade, Queen's Road.

Apply to

BELIOS & Co.

Hongkong, 17th December, 1890. [1726]

SOCIETE FRANCAISE DES CHARBONNAGES DU TONKIN.

SOCIETE ANONYME

With a Capital of Franes 4,000,000.

ISSUE authorized by the Shareholders of 6,000 Debentures of \$100 each making a sum of \$600,000.

There have been issued, 2,500 bonds, of \$100 each making a sum of \$250,000.

Applications will be received for a further issue of 1,000 bonds of \$100 each making a sum of \$100,000 leaving a balance to be issued, if necessary, of 2,500 bonds of \$100 each or a sum of \$250,000.

The Debentures are payable for the 30th September, 1896 or on such earlier day as the principal monies thereby secured shall become payable in accordance with the conditions endorsed thereon. A form of the Debenture can be seen at the Branch Office of the Company at Hongkong.

The Debentures will be issued at par for sums of \$100 each and will carry interest from the 1st day of January, 1891 at the rate of 8 per cent per annum payable half yearly on the 30th June and the 31st December in each year at the Head Office at Hongkong or at the Branch Office of the Company at Hongkong upon presentation of coupons annexed to the Debenture, the last payment of interest to be in respect of the months of July, August and September, 1896.

The property of the Company has been conveyed to the Hon. CATCHICK PAUL CHATER as a Trustee for securing the payment of the principal monies and interest payable in respect of the Debentures.

The sum of \$100 must be paid for each Debenture on allotment.

Failure to pay the sum due on allotment will render the allotment liable to cancellation.

Forms of application may be obtained at the Branch Office of the Company at Hongkong.

Applications will CLOSE on SATURDAY, the 27th December instants, at Noon.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

CARL GEORG, Secretary.

Hongkong, 17th December, 1890. [1727]

